IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) The ~A~ call server as defined in claim <u>6</u> ~2~ wherein said packet transport network is based on an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) packet protocol.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The ~A~ call server as defined in claim <u>6</u> ~2~ wherein said packet transport network is based on a Frame Relay protocol.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The ~A~ call sever as defined in claim <u>6</u> ~2~ wherein said packet transport network is based on an IP packet protocol.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A call server ~as defined in claim 2~ <u>for use in association with a packet transport network, said packet transport network employed to transport voice and telephony calls between end systems within a public switched telephone network (PSTN), said packet transport network having interworking functionality to bi-directionally translate TDM signals to packets and packets to TDM signals, said call server having: means to centrally and independently control functionality within said packet transport network and to control time division multiplexed (TDM) switches within the PSTN; means to detect, in real time, a mass calling event and regulate calling activity to dialed numbers for which a mass calling event has been detected; and</u> ~having~ means to detect an end of a mass calling event and to cease regulation of calling activity upon detection of an end of a mass calling event.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The ~A~ call server as defined in claim 6 wherein ~said credit mechanism to detect~ a mass calling event <u>is detected by a credit mechanism which monitors</u> ~detects~ the ratio of failed call events to calls initiated to a call destination.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The ~A~ call server as defined in claim <u>6</u> ~2~ having means to convert directory numbers to un-translated dialed numbers and to convert un-translated dialed numbers to directory numbers.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The ~A~ call server as defined in claim <u>6</u> ~2~ having memory means for storing a directory number of a call terminator.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended) <u>The control system</u> A credit method as defined in claim <u>17</u> 10 wherein said bucket is associated with multiple dialed numbers.

Claim 12 (currently amended) <u>The control system</u> A credit method as defined in claim <u>17</u> 10 wherein a credit overflow threshold is provided whereby no new credit tokens are assigned to said bucket when said threshold has been reached.

Claim 13 (currently amended) <u>The control system</u> A credit method as defined in claim <u>17</u> 10 wherein credit tokens are assigned to said bucket in accordance with configurable <u>end</u> and system determined parameters.

Claim 14 (currently amended) <u>The control system</u> A credit method as defined in claim 13 wherein said configurable <u>end</u> and system determined parameters include the time interval between assigning credit tokens to a bucket.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (currently amended) A control system as defined in claim <u>17</u> 15 including means to block a call to said dialed number if no credit tokens exist in an associated credit bucket.

Claim 17 (currently amended) <u>In a telecommunications system in which a packet transport network is</u> <u>employed to transport calls between end systems in a public switched telephone network (PSTN) a</u> <u>control system for use in controlling telephone calls to a dialed number in a mass calling event</u> <u>comprising: means to detect a mass calling event; means to assign credit tokens to a bucket on a timed</u> <u>basis; and means to determine whether said bucket has any current tokens whereby a determination that</u> <u>said bucket has no current tokens indicates that said dialed number has experienced a mass calling event.</u> A control system as defined in claim 15 wherein means to detect <u>said</u> a mass calling event includes means to count the number of failed calls to said call destination as a function of total call attempts to said destination.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A control system as defined in claim 17 ~~15~~ wherein said means to assign credit tokens includes a clock to establish a rate of assigning tokens to said bucket.

Claim 19 (currently amended) A control system as defined in claim 17 ~~15~~ for use in a Voice over Packet (VoP) network.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The ~~A~~ control system as defined in claim 19 wherein said packet transport network is based on an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) Voice and Telephony over ATM protocol.

Claim 21 (currently amended) The ~~A~~ control system as defined in claim 19 wherein said packet transport network is based on a Frame Relay protocol.

Claim 22 (currently amended) The ~~A~~ control system as defined in claim 19 wherein said packet transport network is based on an IP protocol.

Claim 23 (cancelled).

Claim 24 (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 28 ~~23~~ wherein said packet transport network is based on an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) protocol.

Claim 25 (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 28 ~~23~~ wherein said packet transport network is based on a Frame Relay protocol.

Claim 26 (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 28 ~~23~~ wherein said packet transport network is based on an IP protocol.

Claim 27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (currently amended) A system for controlling telephone calls through the public switched telephone network (PSTN) wherein a packet transport network is employed to transport telephone calls between end systems within the PSTN, the system comprising: a plurality of interworking elements to provide interworking functionality between TDM switches in the PSTN and said packet transport network; and a centralized call server to independently provide tracking and recording functionality

respecting telephone calls through said system: ~~as defined in claim 27 wherein~~ said call server including means to detect a mass calling event and to regulate calls to a dialed number for which a mass calling event has been detected; and said call server including ~~includes~~ means to detect the end of a mass calling event and to end regulation of calls to a dialed number upon detection of an end to a mass calling event.

Claim 29 (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 28 ~~23~~ having a credit bucket mechanism for use in controlling calls to a dialed number in which a mass calling event has been detected, said credit mechanism including a timer to set an interval for issuing credit tokens to said bucket and a detector to determine if any credits are in the bucket upon receipt of a new call attempt to said dialed number.

Claim 30 (currently amended) The ~~A~~ system as defined in claim 29 including means to block a call to said dialed number if there are no tokens in the associated bucket and to permit the call to continue if there is at least one token.

Claim 31 (currently amended) The ~~A~~ system as defined in claim 30 including an overflow threshold unit to limit the number of tokens in said bucket to a configurable value.

Claim 32 (new) A method of controlling telephone calls to a dialed number in a mass calling event in a telecommunications system in which a packet transport network is employed to transport calls between end systems in a public switched telephone network (PSTN) the method comprising: providing means for detecting a mass calling event; assigning credit tokens to a bucket on a timed basis; determining whether said bucket has any current tokens whereby determination that said bucket has no current tokens indicate that said dialed number has experienced a mass calling event; and providing means to detect a mass calling event including means to count the number of failed calls to said call destination as a function of total call attempts to said destination.